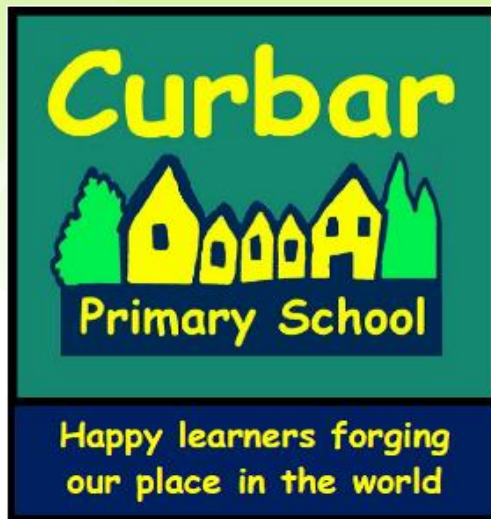


the Governors' Newsletter



We always try to predict and plan for the future, but this school year has gone far beyond any of our expectations.

We would like to thank all of Curbar Primary's staff for their hard work and dedication during this time. They have all approached this challenge with imagination, good humour and positivity; worked tremendously hard; and as a result, have supported our children and families to stay safe, happy and learning. Thank you also to our families, you have engaged in this change and adapted amazingly well.

We are very proud of how Curbar Primary's community have dealt with these challenging times.

For a brief update on governor work, read on.

'Why do schools have governors?'

In England, Wales and Northern Ireland every state school must, by law, have a governing body.

Their job is to provide strategic management to the school, acting as a 'critical friend', supporting staff but asking the difficult questions too.

Their 3 key functions are:

1. To ensure the school's strategic vision is clear. Asking, "Why are we doing it like this or not like that?"
2. To hold the Head teacher accountable for the educational performance of pupils. Asking, "Why did group x do better than group y? Why are we in the top 10 %, not the top 1%"
3. To oversee the budget, making sure all money is well spent. Asking, "What benefit do we get from spending £x on that?"

They are not involved in the day-to-day running of the school.

Finance

Budget setting was completed just before lockdown, with a balanced budget for 2020/21 being set and returned to Derbyshire County Council on time. We wait to see how finances may change as government formulates plans for school requirements over summer and into the next academic year.

Health and Safety

We have been very fortunate to be able to draw on Alan Cain's expertise in this area (his day job is as Resilience Manager for NHS Greater Manchester, which currently means a lot of Covid related planning).

Alan has worked closely with Simon Beahan to ensure the risk assessment process was effective and thorough. Most recently, Alan has been back in school to see how the government guidance 'Actions for Education and childcare settings to prepare for wider opening from 1 June 2020' has been applied in practice. He was particularly impressed with the resilience shown by the children in Curbar Primary and how well they have adapted to the social distancing measures now in place. He would also like to put on record his thanks to staff for their 'can do' attitude to making the school a safe place for the children to study.

Going forward we will need to consider our strategy for opening school more widely, given the available space limitations and the evolving government guidance and situation in the country.

School Improvement Plan

The main focus of this year's school improvement plan was a review of the school curriculum. This work has been started with each subject area being reviewed by the subject leader teacher and an allocated governor. This work was put on hold at lockdown. It will now be carried over into the next academic year.

Governor Meetings

Governors have remained in touch with school throughout lockdown by phone and email. Meetings have been held remotely on Zoom. As with the rest of the country this has been a 'learning curve'. We have found it works surprisingly well and will continue in this way for the foreseeable future.

Governor Vacancies

Recruitment for a parent governor was due to take place immediately after the Easter holiday. We decided to postpone this, due to the practical difficulties of remotely organizing an anonymous election and also because we felt that parents had enough on their plates. Alison Thorpe has agreed to stay on as an associate governor for the remainder of this academic year. We would like to thank her for this and all her work during her time as a governor, it has been much appreciated. This election will now take place in September, nomination forms will be sent out at the beginning of the Autumn term.

We also have a vacancy for a Local Authority governor, this individual is appointed by the governing body (i.e isn't voted for) and is typically not a parent at school. We would particularly be interested in hearing from applicants with a finance background, however the main criteria are enthusiasm and a commitment to the values of Curbar Primary. In the event that we are not approached by a suitable candidate and we are oversubscribed for the parent governor role, the governing body may decide to appoint another parent to this role. If you, or anyone you know, are interested in applying for this role please contact Jane Taylor at jane.taylor@curbar.derbyshire.sch.uk

A reminder of who's who and their particular responsibilities:**Standards and Curriculum Committee**

Jane Taylor, chair of governors, SEND, Pupil Premium

Helen Walton, chair of committee

Alison Thorpe

Angie Cottle

Linda Berry

Simon Beahan

SIP responsibilitiesMaths

Helen Walton

Role of Subject Leaders

Linda Berry

Curriculum

Angie Cottle

Resource Management Committee

Jane Taylor, chair of governors

George Wolfe, chair of committee, vice-chair of governors

Safeguarding and Anti-bullying

David Jackson, GDPR

Alan Cain, Health and Safety

Simon Beahan

Behaviour for Learning and Welfare

Alison Thorpe

You are always welcome to email us. Each governor has an email address with the following format:
firstname.surname@curbar.derbyshire.sch.uk

